

Department of Health and Human Services

**OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

**PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW OF OCS
GRANT #90EF0041**

**W.S.O.S. COMMUNITY ACTION
COMMISSION, INC.**

FREMONT, OHIO



**AUGUST 2001
A-05-01-00080**

Office of Inspector General

<http://www.hhs.gov/oig/>

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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REGION V
OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 22, 2001

Common Identification No. A-05-01-00080

Mr. Don Stricker
President/Chief Executive Officer
W.S.O.S. Community Action Commission, Inc.
109 South Front Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420

This letter report provides you with the results of our programmatic review of discretionary grant number #90EF0041, awarded to the W.S.O.S. Community Action Commission, Inc. (W.S.O.S.). This two-year grant is part of an on-going effort to improve the water quality and sanitary wastewater treatment for low-income rural areas. The purpose of our review was to determine whether W.S.O.S. met the objectives specified in the grant award. We found that W.S.O.S. did meet the grant objectives and, therefore, we make no recommendations for improvement or change.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

This grant, dated September 21, 1998, was to be used to assist in improving drinking water quality and sanitary wastewater treatment for residents of low-income rural communities within the seven state Great Lakes area. The grant was for a two-year period, September 30, 1998 to September 29, 2000 at a cost of \$1,052,456.

The grant had several specific performance goals, including: (i) number of community needs assessments done, (ii) total population served, (iii) low income population served, and (iv) the number of new water systems established. This grant is similar to numerous others that W.S.O.S. has received for the same purposes going back to the early 1980s.

The majority of the grant (76%) was for sub-contracts to field agents to perform community needs assessments in the seven state area. The remainder of the grant (24%) was for administrative costs of W.S.O.S.

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

Our audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. The purpose of our audit was limited to an assessment of grantee performance in achieving project objectives and complying with the terms and conditions of the grant award. To accomplish our objective, we: (i) interviewed the project director, (ii)

reviewed semi-annual and annual progress reports, and (iii) reviewed selected sub-contractor community needs assessments.

Our fieldwork was performed at the W.S.O.S. Community Action Commission, Inc. office in Fremont, Ohio in June 2001.

RESULTS OF REVIEW

We found that the grantee had accomplished the objectives and goals of the grant. In order to achieve the grant objectives, the W.S.O.S. relies largely on subcontracts with technical experts to perform community needs assessments, and to work with local officials to resolve drinking water and solid waste problems. The subcontractors submit their reports, and W.S.O.S. compiles and summarizes the overall statistics into annual reports to the granting office.

We reviewed the statistics in the W.S.O.S. annual reports to determine if grant objectives were being met. In addition, we selectively tested the statistics contained in the annual reports back to supporting subcontractor reports to insure that the statistics were accurate.

Following are significant statistics that W.S.O.S. reported:

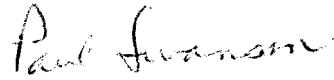
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>% of Goal Attained</u>
1) Community Need Assessments Performed	493	361	137%
2) Total Population Served	1,193,917	748,187	159%
3) Low Income Population Served	517,405	265,773	195%
4) Number of New Water Systems Established	33	14	236%

Based upon these observations, we believe that W.S.O.S. accomplished the objectives and goals of the grant. We, therefore, make no recommendations for change or improvement of W.S.O.S.'s research effort.

In accordance with the principles of the Freedom of Information Act (Public Law 90-23), Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit Services reports, issued to the Department's grantees and contractors, are made available, if requested, to members of the press and general public to the extent information contained therein is not subject to exemptions in

general public to the extent information contained therein is not subject to exemptions in the Act which the Department chooses to exercise (see 45 CFR Part 5). As such, within 10 business days after the report is issued, it will be posted on the world wide web of HHS/OAS at <http://www.dhhs.gov/progorg/oig>.

To facilitate identification, please refer to Common Identification Number A-05-01-00080 in all correspondence relating to this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Swanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Swanson
Regional Inspector General
For Audit Service